

CHAPTER 30-03-05

FISHING CONTESTS

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30-03-05-01 Fishing Contest Defined. A fishing contest is any event where prizes or cash are given for catching fish from waters open to public use. These events include, but are not limited to, high value tag contests, fishing tournaments, biggest fish contests, and contests giving prizes for the largest number or weight of fish. Entry fees must be collected and listed separately from other activities. Fishing contests do not include the following:

1. Individual big fish promotions sponsored by a resident, local businesses not charging any entry or participation fee. If any local, resident business desires to sponsor a high value (prizes exceeding one thousand dollars cash or merchandise) individual fishing contest, the Game and Fish Director shall designate the species of game fish to be included and the contest may be limited to only those species in select waters.
2. Any local fishing tournament charging an entry or participation fee of less than five dollars per angler, unless there are more than forty-nine (49) participating individuals or twenty-four (24) participating boats.
3. Local tournaments where fishing is through the ice where the activity is beneficial to the fishery resource as determined by the Game and Fish Director.

History: Effective March 1, 1984; amended effective May 1, 1994.

General Authority: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

Law Implemented: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

30-03-05-02 Organizations Eligible. Only non-profit, veterans, charitable, education, religious, and fraternal organizations, civic and service clubs, and public-spirited organizations, as those organizations defined in Chapter 53-06.1 of the North Dakota Century Code will be issued permits to hold fishing contests. Exemptions to this requirement may be granted by the Game and Fish Director, if, in the opinion of the Director, the contest is not detrimental to the fishery resource or to the public, or both.

History: Effective March 1, 1984; amended effective May 1, 1994.

General Authority: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

Law Implemented: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

30-03-05-03 Use of Proceeds. A minimum of seventy-five percent of any entry or participation fee paid by the contestants for fishing activities must be returned to the contestants as cash or merchandise (must be case equivalent and cannot include donated merchandise when an entry fee is required). Payback procedures must be stated in the tournament rules and regulations. A minimum of ten percent of the gross proceeds from entry or participation fees, to a maximum of \$5,000, is required to be paid as a conservation fee. Contests with no entry fee but still subject to regulations as defined in Subsection 2 of Section 30-03-05-01, are required to submit a \$5,000 conservation fee unless there is no cash payout associated with the contest, i.e., all prizes are donated merchandise. The conservation fees must be expended on fishery conservation projects or for providing public access to fishing areas and the intended project must be identified on the permit application form. Moneys for fishery conservation or public access projects must be allocated within ninety days after the completion of the tournament. The fishery conservation projects and public access projects must be approved the Game and Fish Director.

In the absence of an outside sponsor, the tournament committee may retain a maximum of fifteen percent of the gross proceeds from entry or participation fees for expenses incurred in putting on the contest.

History: Effective March 1, 1984; amended effective May 1, 1994.

General Authority: NDCC 20.1-02-05 (22)

Law Implemented: NDCC 20.1-02005 (22)

30-03-05-04 Application. Anyone desiring to hold a fishing contest must submit an application for a permit to the Game and Fish Director at least thirty days prior to the start of the contest. Information on the application must include the name of the applicant, location of the waters where the contest is to be held, the dates of the contest, the number of participants expected for the contest, the amount of entry fee, identification of the intended fishery conservation or public access project, a copy of the tournament regulations, and the name and phone number of a person to be contacted for additional information about the contest.

History: March 1, 1984; amended effective May 1, 1994.

General Authority: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

Law Implemented: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

30-03-05-05 Fishing contest rules and regulations.

1. In a boat tournament, committee/sponsors shall provide boat launching and loading assistance to tournament participants.
2. The ratio of tournament patrol boats to participant boats shall at no time be less than one to twenty fishing contests involving one hundred or fewer boats and one to twenty-five for contests involving more than one hundred boats.

3. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department may add further tournament regulation restrictions if deemed necessary.
4. Fishing contests for all game and nongame fish, with the exception of paddlefish, pallid and shovelnose sturgeon, zander, and grass carp (white amur) are allowable.

History: Effective March 1, 1984; amended effective May 1, 1994.

General Authority: NDCC 20.1-02-05 (22)

Law Implemented: NDCC 20.1-02-05 (22)

30-03-05-06 Reasons for Denying Permits. Permits may not be issued if the Game and Fish Director believes the fishing contest does not or will not comply with Game and Fish rules or regulations, or could be harmful to the fishing resource, or public use facilities such as boat ramps, parking areas, campgrounds, and related facilities are inadequate to support the contest, or committee/sponsors have failed to submit timely reports in previous year(s).

History: March 1, 1984; amended effective May 1, 1994.

General Authority: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

Law Implemented: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

30-03-05-07 Post-Contest Report Required. Within thirty days after completion of the fishing contest, the permittee shall submit a report to the Game and Fish Director. The report must include the number of contest participants, the quantity (number and total weight) and species of fish taken in the contest, the gross and net proceeds for the tournament, the percentage of the entry fees paid back to the participants as prizes. Failure to submit this report is justification for denial of future fishing contest permits. Moneys for fishing conservation or public access projects must be allocated within ninety (90) days after the completion of the tournament.

History: March 1, 1984; amended effective May 1, 1994.

General Authority: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)

Law Implemented: NDCC 20.1-02-05(22)



APPLICATION FOR A FISHING CONTEST PERMIT
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Fisheries Division
SFN 6392 (revised 10/04; 11/07)

PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED RULES PRIOR TO COMPLETING APPLICATION

TOURNAMENT NAME:		ORGANIZATION SPONSORING TOURNAMENT:	
CONTEST WATER:		IF A BOAT TOURNAMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS SITE :	
DATE OF CONTEST:	EXPECTANT NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:	AMOUNT OF FISHING ENTRY FEE:	
TOURNAMENT CHAIRPERSON:		DAYTIME PHONE:	CELLULAR PHONE:
ADDRESS:	CITY:	STATE:	ZIP+4:
APPLYING FOR LIVE-RELEASE TOURNAMENT?		PLEASE REFERENCE ATTACHMENT	
		Check one (✓) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If YES, LIST PROPOSED WEIGH-IN LOCATION:			
CONSERVATION MONIES: A minimum of 10% of the gross proceeds from entry or participation fees must be expended on fishing conservation projects or for providing public access to fishing areas. Identification of the intended conservation project must be stated below (these projects must be approved by the ND Game and Fish Director).			
<u>FISHERY CONSERVATION or PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT:</u>			
*Does the sponsor you're representing intend to submit 10% conservation monies directly to ND Game & Fish Department? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
*If No; what entity will you submit conservation monies to (other than ND Game & Fish Department)? Please specify: _____ _____			
*What is your intended use of conservation monies (please specify): _____ _____			
By signing below, I certify that all information provided is true and as the tournament organizer, will accept responsibility for fulfilling all tournament requirements set by the ND Game and Fish Department.			
Applicant Signature:		Date:	

A COPY OF THE ORGANIZATION'S TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION **AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CONTEST. RULES MUST STATE "ALL CURRENT ND GAME & FISH REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED"**.



ND GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
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"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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LIVE RELEASE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

***The following criteria must be met to qualify as a live-release tournament (otherwise, will be considered a catch and kill contest).**

1. Tournaments in July and August cannot be 'live release' due to warm water temperatures, (unless it's an immediate catch and release format). Note - results from 'live release' tournaments are much better when water temperatures are below 70° F. If a tournament is held in June or September and water temperatures greater than 70° F are anticipated, the Department recommends rescheduling for a time when water temperatures are conducive for walleye survival (<70° F). Otherwise it should be held as a catch and kill tournament.
2. Live walleye may not be transported in boat live wells, etc. across land more than one-mile (one way) from the permitted boat ramp.
3. Walleye (and accompanying water) must be released back into the permitted water body within one hour from the time the fish (generally in the boat) leave the permitted water body (this includes any holding time in a fish tank to determine the condition of the fish).
4. Fizzing is not allowed.
5. In virtually any 'live release' fishing tournament, there are a few (even many) walleye that either die or are not in releasable condition. These dead (or dying) fish must be picked up immediately and not left floating in the lake/river.

Further, it is recommended ...

Before being released, all walleye should be held in a large (cattle) tank with water constantly being circulated from the lake. Fish should be released from the holding tank if it maintains its equilibrium and remain upright for 30 seconds in the holding tank and goes to the bottom of the tank on its own within that period of time.

If a 'live release' format is adopted it is highly recommended that the area is checked for two days following the tournament to pick up any additional dead walleye.